

Appl. No. 09/980,155  
Amdt. Dated 11/18/03  
Reply to office Action of Aug. 28, 2003

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph entitled "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" with the following rewritten paragraph:

**-CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of German Application No. 199 24 435.9, filed on May 28, 1999. Applicants also claim priority under 35 U.S.C. ~~§365~~ ~~§120~~ of PCT/EP00/04589, filed on May 20, 2000. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.--

Please replace the abstract with the rewritten abstract attached as Attachment A.